



U.S. General Services Administration

## GSA Federal Acquisition Training Symposium

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# Interagency Acquisition

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## What Is an Interagency Acquisition?

**“Interagency acquisition** means a procedure by which an agency needing supplies or services (the requesting agency) obtains them from another agency (the servicing agency), by an assisted acquisition or a direct acquisition.”

### The term includes:

- Economy Act acquisitions (31 U.S.C. 1535)
- Non-Economy Act acquisitions completed under other statutory authorities such as:
  - Federal Supply Schedules
  - Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs)
  - GSA OASIS

## Types of Interagency Acquisitions

**Direct Acquisition** means the agency with the requirement places an order directly against the servicing agency's Indefinite Delivery Vehicle (IDV)

**Assisted Acquisition** means the servicing agency and requesting agency enter into an interagency agreement pursuant to which the servicing agency performs acquisition activities on the requesting agency's behalf, such as awarding a contract, task order, or delivery order

## Presumption of Best Interest to the Government

Agencies may presume that direct acquisitions made by qualified individuals are in the best interest of the Government if the vehicle was established under the:

- Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI)
- Federal Supply Schedules Program (FSS)
- Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs)

\*Reference OMB Memorandum, Subject: Improving the Management and Use of Interagency Acquisitions, Dated June 6, 2008



## Agency Requirement

**Direct  
Acquisition**

**Assisted  
Acquisition**

Requiring Agency Performs  
Acquisition Activities

Servicing Agency Performs  
Acquisition Activities

(organic contracting)

**CONTRACT  
VEHICLE**

**GSA**

**MAS  
Advantage!**  
Online Shopping

**GSA SCHEDULES**

Access to millions of commercial  
products & services at volume discount

**OASIS**  
One Acquisition Solution for Integrated Services

**GSA OASIS  
OASIS SMALL BIZ**

One Acquisition Solution for  
Integrated Services

**GSA GWACs**

**GSA GWACs**

Governmentwide Acquisition  
Contracts for IT Solutions

## Interagency Contract Defined

- Most interagency acquisition contracts fit one of three categories:
  - Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs)
  - Multi-Agency Contracts (MACs)
  - Federal Supply Schedules (FSS)



## What is a GWAC?

- A Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) is defined as a task or delivery order contract for information technology
- Authority: Section 5112(e) of the Clinger-Cohen Act (40 USC 1412[e])
- Office of Management and Budget designates one or more "executive agents" for government-wide acquisitions of information technology
- Current Executive Agents:
  - **General Services Administration**
  - **NASA**
  - **National Institutes of Health**
- Orders under GWACs are placed under the authority of the Clinger-Cohen Act using procedures from FAR 16.5
- Orders are not subject to the Economy Act

## What is a MAC?

- A multi-agency contract (MAC) is a task-order or delivery-order contract established by one agency for use by Government agencies to obtain supplies and services
- MACs include contracts for information technology established pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 11314(a)(2)
- MAC contracts may be for other than information technology
- Ordering procedures prescribed by FAR 16.5
- Orders are subject to the Economy Act
  - Exception to the Economy Act requirements for MACs: GSA OASIS
- GSA has specific statutory authority under 40 U. S. C. 501 to purchase supplies and non-personal services on behalf of other agencies. Therefore, the Economy Act does not apply to OASIS orders.



## What is a Federal Supply Schedule?

- Governmentwide contract vehicle for **commercial** products, services, and solutions, also known as “Multiple Award Schedules (MAS),” “GSA Schedules,” or “VA Schedules”
- Standing solicitations posted on FedBizOpps
- Awarded using FAR Part 12 procedures
- Ordering procedures prescribed by FAR 8.4
  - Orders not subject to the Economy Act

## **What are the Proper Procedures for using Interagency Contracts?**

# Interagency Acquisitions – FAR Basics

- FAR 17.5 – Interagency Acquisitions
- Applies to all interagency acquisitions except – Federal Supply Schedule orders <\$550,000
  - However, most agencies have issued local policy implementing these requirements at the SAT
  - (See DFARS 217.770 for DOD rules)
- Agencies shall not use Interagency Acquisition to circumvent conditions and limitations on the use of funds
- Requires Best Procurement Approach Determination (Not a D&F)

## Interagency Acquisitions – FAR Basics (cont)

- FAR 17.7 – Interagency Acquisitions: Acquisitions by Nondefense Agencies on Behalf of the Department of Defense
- AKA: Assisted Acquisition or “Offloading”
- Applies to all acquisitions made by nondefense agencies on behalf of DoD in addition to FAR 17.5
- Nondefense agency certifications, waivers, and additional information are available at [http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/interagency\\_acquisition.html](http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/interagency_acquisition.html)

# Interagency Acquisitions – The DFARS

217.770

(a) Evaluating whether using a non-DoD contract for the acquisition is in the best interest of DoD. Factors to be considered include –

(1) Satisfying customer requirements

(2) Schedule

(3) Cost effectiveness (taking into account discounts and fees). In order to ensure awareness of the total cost of fees associated with use of a non-DoD contract, follow the procedures at [PGI 217.770\(a\)\(3\)](#)

(4) Contract administration (including oversight)

## Interagency Acquisitions – The DFARS

217.770 –

(b) Determining that the tasks to be accomplished or supplies to be provided are within the scope of the contract to be used

(c) Reviewing funding to ensure that it is used in accordance with appropriation limitations

(d) Collecting and reporting data on the use of assisted acquisition for analysis. Follow the reporting requirements in subpart [204.6](#).



## Scope Determination Steps for Services under GSA Contracts

1

- Research Schedule and SIN descriptions or OASIS and GWAC information on GSA e-Library

2

- Read scope pages in Schedule solicitations on FedBizOpps or review information on OASIS and GWACs on GSA portal

3

- Ask for scope review from GSA Contracting Officer

## Scope Determination Steps for Products

If you have a bona-fide need for the product being offered through the GSA Schedule or other contract vehicle it is within scope.

	Direct Buy	Assisted Acquisition
<b>Best Procurement Approach Determination</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Obtain concurrence of requesting agency's contracting office IAW internal agency procedures</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Minimum requirements for best procurement analysis:</b>  <b>I. Suitability of the contract vehicle</b> <b>II. Value of using the contract vehicle, including:</b>  <b>a.Administrative cost savings from using an existing contract.</b> <b>b.Lower prices, greater number of vendors, and reasonable vehicle access fees. Is cost effective (including consideration of fees).</b>  <b>III. Expertise of the requesting agency to place orders and administer them against the selected contract vehicle throughout the acquisition lifecycle.</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Written agreement required on roles and responsibilities</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>

	Direct Buy	Assisted Acquisition
<b>Must obtain Delegation of Procurement Authority for certain vehicles e.g. GSA GWACs and OASIS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Minimum requirements for best procurement approach:</b>  <b>Analysis of procurement approaches, including an evaluation that services of another agency:</b>  <div> I. Satisfies the requesting agency’s schedule, performance and delivery requirements  II. Is cost effective (including consideration of fees)   III. Results in proper use of funds IAW laws and policies </div>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>YES</b>

	Direct Buy	Assisted Acquisition
<p><b>Written agreement (Assisted Acquisition Only)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prior to solicitation - must sign an interagency agreement on roles and responsibilities for management and administration</li> <li>▪ Establishes general terms and conditions governing the relationship between the parties including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roles and responsibilities for – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ acquisition planning</li> <li>✓ contract execution</li> <li>✓ administration and management of contract/order</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Requesting agency shall provide unique terms and conditions and agency-specific statutes, regulations, etc.</li> <li>▪ If no unique requirements - requesting agency informs in writing</li> </ul>	N/A	YES

## Using Interagency Contracts Simplifies the Acquisition Process

Orders Placed against Interagency Contracts are streamlined, which create faster, easier, more efficient orders and help ordering activities achieve socioeconomic goals.



# Using Interagency Contracts Simplifies the Acquisition Process

## Faster - Offers administrative and time savings over establishing a new contract

- Contracts are pre-competed – “Full and Open” requirements met
- Terms and Conditions already in place
- Ordering activity may add non-conflicting terms and conditions
- Orders do not require:
  - Publication on FedBizOpps
  - Sub-contracting plans
  - Representations and certifications
  - Responsibility determination

# Using Interagency Contracts Simplifies the Acquisition Process

## Easier – Streamlined ordering process

- GWACs/MACs use methods described in FAR 16.505
  - The contracting officer may exercise broad discretion in developing appropriate order placement procedures
- Federal Supply Schedules use methods described in FAR 8.4
- FAR 15.3 procedures (including terminology) should not be used

# Using Interagency Contracts Simplifies the Acquisition Process

## Efficient – Ordering

- GWACs / MACs generally allow all order types (see specific contract vehicle)
- Schedules allow firm-fixed-price, T&M, and labor hour
- Ordering Activity determines timelines for:
  - Submission
  - Evaluation
  - Award

# Using Interagency Contracts Simplifies the Acquisition Process

- **Efficient - Pricing**
- Schedules
  - Fair and reasonable prices have already been negotiated
  - DOD and NASA Deviations
  - Discounts may be realized at order level
    - (Government must seek a discount when exceeding the SAT and may seek a discount below the SAT)
- GWACs / MACs
  - See specific GWAC for pricing --
    - Generally use the policies and methods in FAR 15.4

# Using Interagency Contracts Simplifies the Acquisition Process

## Socioeconomic Goals

- Small Business strongly supported through Interagency vehicles:
  - Ordering activity receives socioeconomic credit for orders placed
  - SBA is on the Strategic Sourcing Leadership Council

# Using Interagency Contracts Simplifies the Acquisition Process

## Socioeconomic Goals (cont)

- GWAC set-aside contract vehicles:
  - GSA Alliant Small Business
  - GSA 8(a) STARS II
  - GSA VETS
  - NIH CIOSP3
- Ordering activity may conduct discretionary set asides within GWAC pool
- Federal Supply Schedules – ordering activity may conduct discretionary set-asides



# Popular Interagency Contracts

- GSA Schedules
- GSA GWACs (Alliant, VETS, 8a STARS II)
- GSA OASIS
- NIH CIO SP3
- Army CHES
- NASA SEWP
- Navy SeaPort-e

# Helpful Sites

- [https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement\\_index\\_interagency\\_acq/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement_index_interagency_acq/)
- [http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/interagency\\_acquisition.html](http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/interagency_acquisition.html)
- [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/procurement/iac\\_revised.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/procurement/iac_revised.pdf)
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